





The 2004 Citywide Trails Master Plan was developed by the City of Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates, Inc.. A special thanks goes to the many residents, landowners, business owners and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study.

City of Round Rock - City Council

Nyle Maxwell - Mayor
 Tom Nielson - Mayor Pro Tem - Place 1
 Alan McGraw - Council Member Place 2
 Carrie Pitt - Council Member Place 3
 Scot Knight - Council Member Place 4
 Scott Rhode - Council Member Place 5
 Gary Coe - Council Member Place 6

Planning and Zoning Commission

Al Kosik - Chairman
 Peter Drapes - Vice Chairman
 Sandy Arnold
 Russ Boles
 Ray Thibodaux
 Frank Del Castillo, Jr.
 Elaine Wray
 David Pavliska
 Betty Weeks

City of Round Rock - Staff

City Administration

James R. Nuse - City Manager
 David Kautz - Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer
 Steve Sheets - City Attorney
 Christine Martinez - City Secretary

Parks and Recreation Department

Sharon Prete - Director of Parks and Recreation
 Rick Atkins - Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
 M. James Hemenes - Park Development Manager
 David Buzzell - Park Development Specialist
 Melissa Conley Tyree - Park Development Specialist

Public Works Department

Tom Word - Chief of Public Works Operations



A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Citywide Trails Master Plan
The Benefits of Trails and A Citywide Greenway System
Key Guiding Principles of the Plan
Previous Trail Planning Efforts
Trail Plan Methodology

B. ROUND ROCK TODAY

The Demographic Context of Round Rock
Major Trail Attractors and Destinations
Key Guiding Goals of the Trails Plan
Existing Trails in and near Round Rock Today
Citizen Input Regarding Trails

C. TRAIL PRINCIPLES FOR ROUND ROCK

General Trail Types
Proposed Trail Standards
Coordination with On-Street Trails and the Transportation Plan

D. PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDORS

The Brushy Creek Corridor
The Lake Creek Corridor
The Chandler Creek Corridor
The Onion Creek Corridor
The McNeil Road Corridor
The Northeast Round Rock Corridors
Interstate 35 Crossings

E. TRAIL CORRIDOR PRIORITIZATION

Criteria for Establishing Trail Priorities
Summary of Trail Corridor Costs
Trail Prioritization

**F. THE CREATION OF A CITYWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

Funding Sources
Maintenance of Trail Corridors
Trail Ordinances and Guidelines

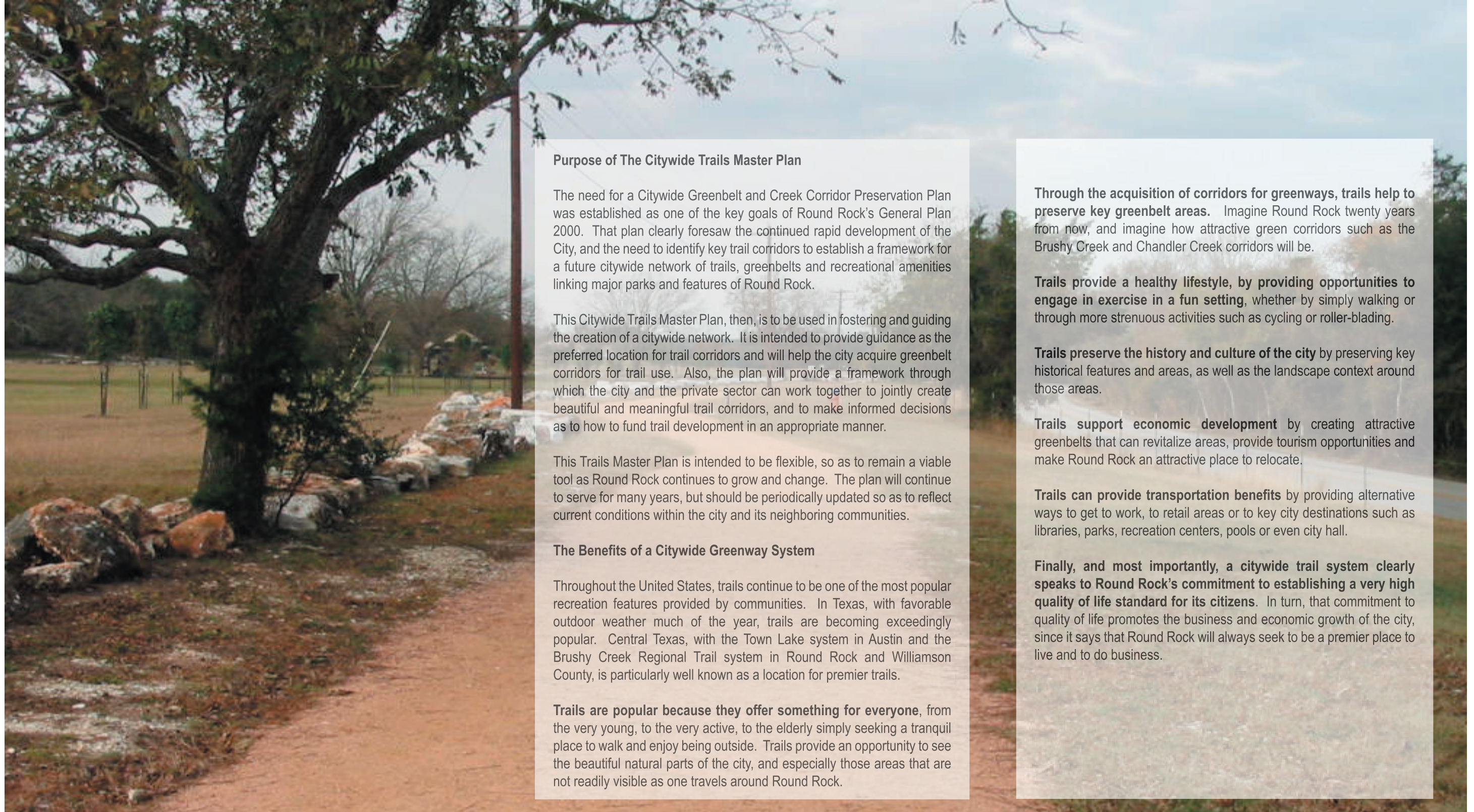
APPENDIX

Public Opinion Survey
Trail Ordinance Sample Language



A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Citywide Trails Master Plan
The Benefits of Trails and A Citywide Greenway System
Key Guiding Principles of the Plan
Previous Trail Planning Efforts
Trail Plan Methodology



Purpose of The Citywide Trails Master Plan

The need for a Citywide Greenbelt and Creek Corridor Preservation Plan was established as one of the key goals of Round Rock's General Plan 2000. That plan clearly foresaw the continued rapid development of the City, and the need to identify key trail corridors to establish a framework for a future citywide network of trails, greenbelts and recreational amenities linking major parks and features of Round Rock.

This Citywide Trails Master Plan, then, is to be used in fostering and guiding the creation of a citywide network. It is intended to provide guidance as the preferred location for trail corridors and will help the city acquire greenbelt corridors for trail use. Also, the plan will provide a framework through which the city and the private sector can work together to jointly create beautiful and meaningful trail corridors, and to make informed decisions as to how to fund trail development in an appropriate manner.

This Trails Master Plan is intended to be flexible, so as to remain a viable tool as Round Rock continues to grow and change. The plan will continue to serve for many years, but should be periodically updated so as to reflect current conditions within the city and its neighboring communities.

The Benefits of a Citywide Greenway System

Throughout the United States, trails continue to be one of the most popular recreation features provided by communities. In Texas, with favorable outdoor weather much of the year, trails are becoming exceedingly popular. Central Texas, with the Town Lake system in Austin and the Brushy Creek Regional Trail system in Round Rock and Williamson County, is particularly well known as a location for premier trails.

Trails are popular because they offer something for everyone, from the very young, to the very active, to the elderly simply seeking a tranquil place to walk and enjoy being outside. Trails provide an opportunity to see the beautiful natural parts of the city, and especially those areas that are not readily visible as one travels around Round Rock.

Through the acquisition of corridors for greenways, trails help to preserve key greenbelt areas. Imagine Round Rock twenty years from now, and imagine how attractive green corridors such as the Brushy Creek and Chandler Creek corridors will be.

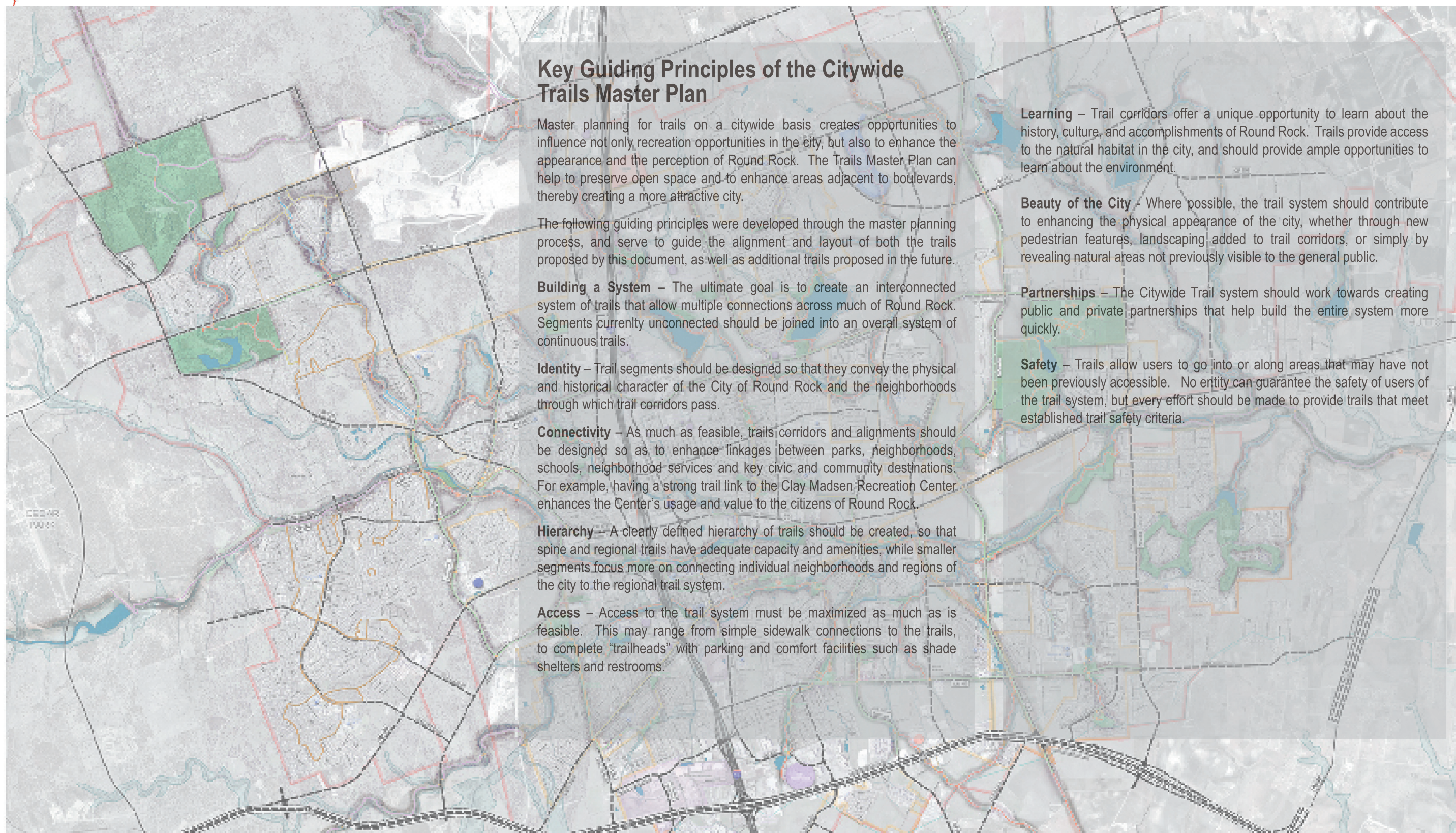
Trails provide a healthy lifestyle, by providing opportunities to engage in exercise in a fun setting, whether by simply walking or through more strenuous activities such as cycling or roller-blading.

Trails preserve the history and culture of the city by preserving key historical features and areas, as well as the landscape context around those areas.

Trails support economic development by creating attractive greenbelts that can revitalize areas, provide tourism opportunities and make Round Rock an attractive place to relocate.

Trails can provide transportation benefits by providing alternative ways to get to work, to retail areas or to key city destinations such as libraries, parks, recreation centers, pools or even city hall.

Finally, and most importantly, a citywide trail system clearly speaks to Round Rock's commitment to establishing a very high quality of life standard for its citizens. In turn, that commitment to quality of life promotes the business and economic growth of the city, since it says that Round Rock will always seek to be a premier place to live and to do business.



Key Guiding Principles of the Citywide Trails Master Plan

Master planning for trails on a citywide basis creates opportunities to influence not only recreation opportunities in the city, but also to enhance the appearance and the perception of Round Rock. The Trails Master Plan can help to preserve open space and to enhance areas adjacent to boulevards, thereby creating a more attractive city.

The following guiding principles were developed through the master planning process, and serve to guide the alignment and layout of both the trails proposed by this document, as well as additional trails proposed in the future.

Building a System – The ultimate goal is to create an interconnected system of trails that allow multiple connections across much of Round Rock. Segments currently unconnected should be joined into an overall system of continuous trails.

Identity – Trail segments should be designed so that they convey the physical and historical character of the City of Round Rock and the neighborhoods through which trail corridors pass.

Connectivity – As much as feasible, trails corridors and alignments should be designed so as to enhance linkages between parks, neighborhoods, schools, neighborhood services and key civic and community destinations. For example, having a strong trail link to the Clay Madsen Recreation Center enhances the Center's usage and value to the citizens of Round Rock.

Hierarchy – A clearly defined hierarchy of trails should be created, so that spine and regional trails have adequate capacity and amenities, while smaller segments focus more on connecting individual neighborhoods and regions of the city to the regional trail system.

Access – Access to the trail system must be maximized as much as is feasible. This may range from simple sidewalk connections to the trails, to complete "trailheads" with parking and comfort facilities such as shade shelters and restrooms.

Learning – Trail corridors offer a unique opportunity to learn about the history, culture, and accomplishments of Round Rock. Trails provide access to the natural habitat in the city, and should provide ample opportunities to learn about the environment.

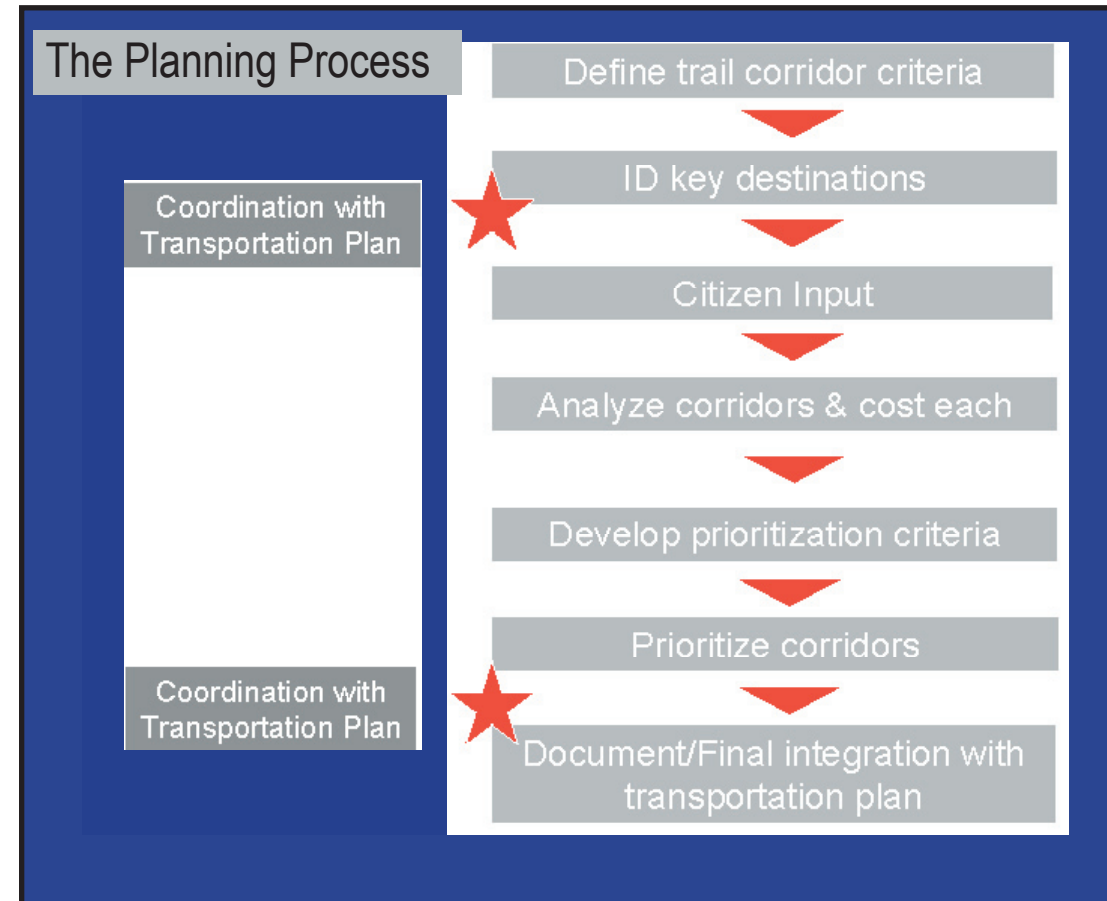
Beauty of the City – Where possible, the trail system should contribute to enhancing the physical appearance of the city, whether through new pedestrian features, landscaping added to trail corridors, or simply by revealing natural areas not previously visible to the general public.

Partnerships – The Citywide Trail system should work towards creating public and private partnerships that help build the entire system more quickly.

Safety – Trails allow users to go into or along areas that may have not been previously accessible. No entity can guarantee the safety of users of the trail system, but every effort should be made to provide trails that meet established trail safety criteria.

Trail Planning Methodology

The methodology used to identify and prioritize trail corridors includes both an analytical look at potential trail corridors as well as provisions for citizen opinions and feedback regarding the need for and location of trail corridors in the city. The process is accepted by Texas Parks and Wildlife for locally based parks and recreation master plans. Coordination with the City's Transportation Plan, which was updated in 2003 and approved by the City Council in the Spring of 2004, occurred at several key points during the planning process. The steps in the process are illustrated on this page.



Steps used in the development of the Citywide Trails Master Plan

Previous Trail Planning Efforts

This plan builds upon the trail corridor recommendations put forth in the **Year 2000 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**. In that document, creek and drainage corridors were identified as the key components of a citywide network of trails. That plan identified the development of hike and bike trails as a high priority action for the city over the next 5 to 10 years. It also identified the preservation and conservation of key drainage corridors such as Brushy Creek, Lake Creek and Chandler Creek as high priorities. The 2000 Parks Plan identified the need for 7.5 miles of trail for an anticipated 2010 population of 74,000, thus recommending a ratio of 1 mile of trail for every 10,000 residents of Round Rock.

The Round Rock General Plan 2000 serves as the city's comprehensive guiding document, and as such the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a component of the General Plan. The General Plan identifies as one of its goals the development of a trails system and open space plan to protect the city's unique ecological features and to help maintain the City's quality of life. The General Plan also indicates a goal of linking the trail system to the sidewalk system to provide as much access to the system as possible.